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[Reports to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

Health of Nome, Alaska.

NOME, ALASKA, August 26, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith weekly report of this station for the week ended August 24, 1901. The health of Nome continues remarkably good. As previously reported, there have been no cases of smallpox in Nome or vicinity since December, 1900.

By personally visiting the physicians of the city I am able to respectfully submit the following list of cases of notifiable diseases existing here during the past week: Smallpox, none; enteric fever, 10; scarlet fever, none; diphtheria, none; measles, none; whooping cough, none.

For the year 1901 to date the physicians report the following cases of notifiable diseases: Enteric fever, 15; scarlet fever, 1; whooping cough, 2; chicken pox, 2. One death from enteric fever is reported. The population of Nome proper, which is constantly fluctuating, may now be roughly estimated at 5,000. Under the circumstances, the number of cases of enteric fever is surprisingly small and it should be mentioned that a considerable proportion of the cases are contributed by the surrounding country. In the year 1899, with a population of perhaps 2,500, there were in the neighborhood of 250 cases of enteric fever in this camp, excluding the many instances in which the symptoms developed after leaving Nome, some of which came under my personal observation. At that time drinking water was obtained from the most convenient creek, spring, or well. The following year a private corporation piped water into the town from a creek about 5 miles distant, apparently with great benefit to the health of the community. No case of enteric fever occurring in a person using the "city water" supply exclusively has come to my notice. The pail system for the disposal of excreta has been largely adopted though, unfortunately, not to the exclusion of more primitive and unsanitary methods.

Respectfully,

DUNLOP MOORE,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Dysentery in Alaska.

NOME, ALASKA, August 28, 1901.

SIR: Referring to request for reports on dysentery, PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS, July 5, 1901, I have the honor to make the following statement:

Number of cases of dysentery treated by physicians of Nome during 1901 (to date), 10; number of cases under treatment at present in Nome, 2; type of disease, catarrhal; mortality, nil.

The above statistics are the result of personal inquiry among the practitioners of Nome. The statements of physicians with extensive medical experience in this part of the world indicate that true dysentery is not very common in Alaska, and that in uncomplicated cases a fatal termination is practically unknown.

In connection with above statement, it may be mentioned that here, as elsewhere, the term dysentery is sometimes loosely applied to various diarrheal disorders.

Respectfully,

DUNLOP MOORE,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.